

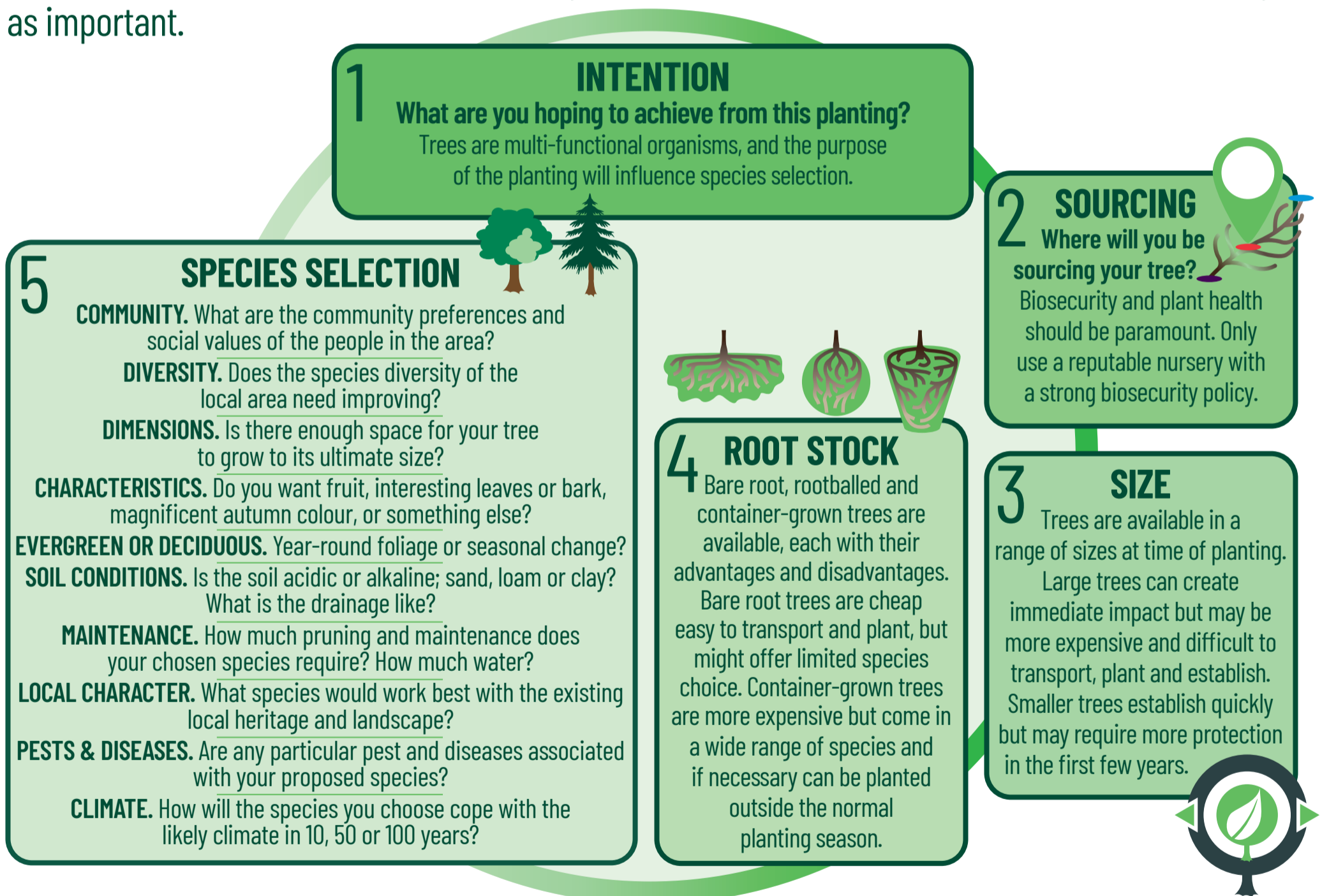


# WHAT TO PLANT?

Selecting which tree to plant is a big decision which could impact the local environment for decades to come.

This guidance note is not intended to tell you the best tree to plant – simply to set out some considerations you should think about when making your decision.

If we are to future-proof our urban forests against the twin threats of **climate change** and tree **pests and diseases**, then species diversity is essential. Native and non-native trees are equally as important.



More information about tree species selection can be found in the Trees and Design Action Group publication *Tree species selection for green infrastructure*, available here:

[www.tdag.org.uk/tree-species-selection-for-green-infrastructure.html](http://www.tdag.org.uk/tree-species-selection-for-green-infrastructure.html)

Always consult an arboricultural professional if in any doubt about tree care.

For further information, including training and publications, please visit [trees.org.uk](http://trees.org.uk).





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**1 INTENTION**  
What are you hoping to achieve from this planting?  
Trees are multi-functional organisms, and the purpose of the planting will influence species selection.

**2 SOURCING**  
Where will you be sourcing your tree?  
Preventing the spread of tree pests and diseases (biosecurity) should be paramount. Only use a reputable nursery with a strong biosecurity policy.

**5 SPECIES SELECTION**

- COMMUNITY.** What are the community preferences and social values of the people in the area?
- DIVERSITY.** Does the species diversity of the local area need improving?
- DIMENSIONS.** Is there enough space for your tree to grow to its ultimate size?
- CHARACTERISTICS.** Do you want fruit, interesting leaves or bark, magnificent autumn colour, or something else?
- EVERGREEN OR DECIDUOUS.** Year-round foliage or seasonal change?
- SOIL CONDITIONS.** Is the soil acidic or alkaline; sand, loam or clay? What is the drainage like?
- MAINTENANCE.** How much pruning and maintenance does your chosen species require? How much water?
- LOCAL CHARACTER.** What species would work best with the existing local heritage and landscape?
- PESTS & DISEASES.** Are any particular pests and diseases associated with your proposed species?
- CLIMATE.** How will the species you choose cope with the likely climate in 10, 50 or 100 years?

**4 ROOT STOCK**  
Bare-root, rootballed and container-grown trees are available, each with their advantages and disadvantages. Bare-root trees are cheap and easy to transport and plant, but might offer limited species choice. Container-grown trees are more expensive but come in a wide range of species and if necessary can be planted outside the normal planting season.

**3 SIZE**  
Trees are available in a range of sizes at time of planting. Large trees can create immediate impact but may be more expensive and difficult to transport, plant and establish. Smaller trees establish quickly but may require more protection in the first few years.

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